

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising a first and second polypeptide, ~~the polypeptides having an affinity with respect to each other,~~ wherein the first polypeptide is ~~an~~ a cytokine selected from the group consisting of interleukin-6, interleukin-11, or CNTF, or wherein the first polypeptide is a subunit of interleukin-6, interleukin-11 or CNTF, wherein said subunit can bind an interleukin-6, interleukin-11 or CNTF receptor, and the second polypeptide is an interleukin-6, interleukin-11 or CNTF receptor, or subunit thereof of the receptors, and the second polypeptide is a receptor, or subunit thereof, that binds to the first polypeptide, wherein the receptor subunits can bind their respective cytokines, wherein the first and second polypeptides are linked to each other via a polypeptide linker.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the ~~receptor~~ second polypeptide is a subunit of the cytokine receptor and binds to ~~a ligand~~ said cytokine.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the ~~cytokine~~ first polypeptide is a subunit of ~~a~~ the cytokine and binds to said receptor.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The fusion polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is an interleukin-6 ~~IL-6~~ receptor and the cytokine is interleukin-6 ~~IL-6~~.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is a CNTF receptor and the cytokine is a CNTF.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) DNA coding for the fusion polypeptide according to claim 1.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) An expression plasmid comprising the DNA according to claim 7.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A An isolated transformant containing the expression plasmid according to claim 8.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the receptor is an interleukin-11 ~~IL-11~~ receptor and the cytokine is interleukin-11 ~~IL-11~~.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the fusion polypeptide of claim 1 or the DNA of claim 7, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.